HalloweeM 37



Hosted by:
Chicago Area Mensa
October 25 - 28, 2012

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Dearly Beloved ...

Welcome to the 37th annual HalloweeM, the regional gathering of Chicago Area Mensa. Our theme this year is "Red, White, & WeeM." I hope you'll enjoy the celebration of American culture, history, and, yes, politics, that the HalloweeM Team has put together for you this year. If you need a quick introduction to what HalloweeM is, make sure to attend one of our WeeM 101 sessions, hosted by yours truly. This program book will address many of your questions as well, but if we've missed anything, or if you have any issues or concerns, please feel free to approach me. (Pro tip: I'm often found in the games room.)

The folks with red Event Staff ribbons attached to their badges are some of the key members of our team. They can help answer questions or manage issues. Most of all, though, they've worked really hard to make this a terrific weekend for you, so, if you're having a good time, let them know! For all of us on the HalloweeM Team, knowing you're having a spectacularly fun event is what makes the hard work all year worthwhile.

Thanks for joining us!

JC Chupack

HalloweeM 37 Chair



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Notes From the Program Chair



Greetings and welcome, delegates! In these pages you'll find the 2012 platform of the HalloweeM Party. Ours is a big tent and we overtly cater to many special interest groups. We've got you covered, whether your hot-button issues are the economy, wildlife, the environment, space exploration, foreign policy, science, defense, emigration, lifestyles, emergency response, health, religion and irreligion, jobs, sex education, the media, and much more! Plus, you can participate in debates and meet the candidates! And our activities for teens, tweens, and younger delegates will help ensure that no child is left behind.

We've got some new sorts of programming this year and many first-time presenters. Please check them out and give us your feedback! This program book has everything that was set as of a week before WeeM. As always, the Program-At-A-Glance sheet will reflect later changes, and anything last-minute will be posted near registration and/or at the doors to the function rooms.

You'll find that game and tournament space has been expanded, the kids' costume contest has been separated from the adults', and we have a terrific keynote speaker in between the two: Daniel Seddiqui, who worked 50 different job in 50 states over the course of 50 weeks. He and other authors on the program may make themselves available after their presentations at the authors' table outside the Lake Michigan Ballroom.

And of course we have the familiar events as well, such as Saturday dance, the late-night movies, Pretentious Drinking, and the lavish hospitality for which Chicago Area Mensa is famous.

Now is the time for all good Mensans to come to their party!

Matt Crawford, Program chair

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Policies & Reminders

Before you enjoy the festivities, please review the policies and reminders that follow.

Name Badges: Your name badge is your ticket to all the joy and wonder of HalloweeM. Please wear it at all times. With a group as large and diverse as ours, the tags are the only way we have of knowing who belongs at the RG. Anyone without a name badge should be referred to registration or to an event host (designated by the red EVENT HOST ribbons on their badges). Sorry, lost name badges cannot be replaced.

Smartphone, Tablet, and other E-Gear Users: Please be courteous by silencing your devices when in programs or events. If you don't know how to silence your device, please leave it in your room, lest you be mocked mercilessly. Wi-Fi is available in the hotel lobby. Scannable QR codes are posted near registration to allow you to easily download the program booklet and Program at a Glance (PAAG) in PDF form. Twitter users can use hashtag #weem2012 for your tweets about the weekend; you can also direct message any concerns or issues to @ChicagoMensa. Follow @ChicagoMensa for potential last minute updates, photos, or other fun info throughout the weekend.

Program Schedule: There are often intervals set between programs in the programming grid. Check the times listed carefully. The Program at a Glance is the most up-to-date source with respect to error corrections, room changes, speaker cancellations, et cetera. Programming doesn't stop when the sun sets. We have several evening programs scheduled, and social activities often extend past midnight. Make sure to stay hydrated and get rest when you can!

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Program At A Glance (PAAG): The PAAG includes color codes to make it easy to spot events which are particularly friendly for our younger guests or restricted to adults only. For events that are color coded as age-restricted (usually 21+), you may be asked to show proof of age. We also have a color code indicating events which are either unmoderated or more free-form in nature; these events are often highly informal "meet-ups" rather than lecture/forum formats.

About the Speakers: Please bear in mind that the speakers have donated their time and resources to be with us this weekend. Many of them are not Mensans and this is their first (and maybe only) exposure to the organization. Mensa's reputation depends on the actions and attitudes of each of us. If you enter or leave during a program, please do so quietly in deference to the speaker and other attendees. Show consideration, even if you disagree with a speaker. Unless a speaker requests otherwise, please hold questions and comments until the end of the presentation.

Alcohol and Youth: Illinois law, hotel rules, and Chicago Area Mensa policies are strict when it comes to underage drinking. The legal drinking age here is 21. Please do not be insulted if you are asked for proof of age. Anyone with a brightly colored "under 21" badge is not permitted to be in areas where alcohol is available. These areas are easy to spot in hospitality and in the program guide. Adherence to this rule has been stressed to all Hospitality gHosts. Even if you allow your children to consume alcoholic beverages at home, you are NOT free to do the same at HalloweeM.

Dry-Erase Board: A dry-erase board will be available near the registration area for posting personal messages, program changes, and other announcements. Please take care to re-cap the markers after use.

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Decorations: Every year, we make a sizable investment of time and money in creating the right ambiance at HalloweeM. Please do not disturb or remove the decorations. Many of them are haunted. We cannot be held responsible for any paranormal activities if you remove the sacred monkey paw from its resting chamber.

Food and Beverages: HalloweeM food and beverages MUST remain in the Ravinia Ballroom. Since the games room is within the Ravinia Ballroom, bringing food and beverages there is permitted. However, please DO NOT take food or beverages into the other speaker rooms (e.g., Birch, Maple, etc.). Water is available outside the speaker rooms, if you become parched.



Volunteers/gHosts: HalloweeM is a big event. It takes a LOT of volunteers to make things run smoothly. Our volunteer staff (also known as gHosts) is always happy to accept new recruits. We need only an hour or two of your time; in exchange, you get a HalloweeM volunteer collector's pin and a warm feeling deep inside. A volunteer grid will be posted near registration. Please sign up!

A break from the crowds: There is a nature walk along the river just outside the south door of the hotel. It's a great place for a breather.



Hugs: To hug or not to hug, that is the question. Colored stickers signify your hugging preference: yes, no, maybe so. Pick up a sticker for your name badge at the registration desk and check the stickers that others wear. If a hug sticker isn't on someone's badge, or if there is any doubt, please ask before hugging.

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Harassment: HalloweeM is meant to be a friendly and safe environment for our attendees. Unwelcome physical contact and other forms of harassment will not be tolerated. If you have concerns or need to report misconduct, find someone with a red EVENT HOST ribbon, or, if you need immediate and direct intervention for your personal safety, go to the hotel lobby and request assistance from security at the front desk.

Late Check-out: When you check in, please let the hotel desk staff know if you need a late check-out time at the end of the weekend. Based on their expected vacancy level, they will do all they can to accom¬modate as many as they can.



Smoking: By Illinois state law as well as hotel policy, smoking is permitted outside the hotel in designated areas only. We will do our best to ensure that the staff provides adequate waste cans and ashtrays. Thank you.

Of Special Note: Volunteer Drawing

We're not drawing pictures of volunteers or asking volunteers to draw pictures: we're holding a drawing to reward our valuable helpers this weekend. Raffle prizes include gift certificates from the hotel, tickets to local attractions, and a plethora of other prizes. (Last year, we had more prizes than volunteers!) You get a drawing ticket for each hour worked. As a twist, some of the less popular volunteer assignments (like the middle of the night in Hospitality) are worth more than one ticket per hour. The RG wins, our guests win, and, most importantly, you win! For major prizes, you do not need to be present to win. Minor prizes (less than $20 value) will only be awarded to those present.

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'WeeM Loves Kids!

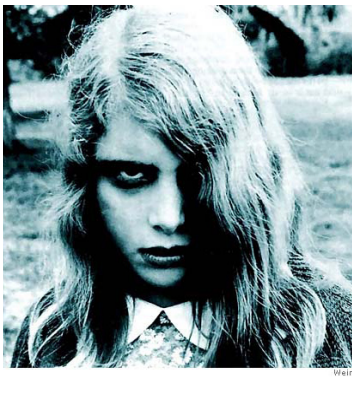


Young Children (9 and under)

Once again, WeeM is offering a kids track for your little ones. Supervised play for kids 8 and under will be offered in the Maple Room throughout the weekend. Snacks will be provided in the Kids Room at intervals throughout the weekend, but you should pick up your kids and visit hospitality when the Kids Room is closed for meal breaks or whenever you are hungry. The Kid's Room schedule this year will be:

Friday 4pm-5:30pm; 7pm-11pm.
Sat. 9-11:30am; 12:30-5:30pm; 7-11pm
Sunday 9am-2pm

Tweens (9-13)



We welcome Tweens to participate in all of our WeeM activities, but when you need a break from the adults and want to relax with your peers, look for the tented area in a corner of the Ravinia ballroom. The "Tween Tent" will once again feature a Wii with an assortment of 4 player games available from 9:30am until 10pm every night except at meal times. New this year: Mario Kart Wii tournament in the Tween Tent at 1PM on Saturday.

When you aren't gaming, check out the Program at a Glance for programs marked as recommended for Teens and Tweens. Nightly Werewolf marathon sessions will be held in Elm, and there is a new Prohibition Drinking event designed especially for those under 21.

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Games & Tournaments

All Weekend ...



Solve the Clues!
Follow the Trail!
Find the Treasure!

"The Secret Lies With Toast"

Game Room Ravinia A & B

The Game Room will open Thursday evening and remain open around the clock until Sunday afternoon. We have a wide assortment to choose from. Please do not leave your small children in the game room—games will also be in the Children's and Tweeners' spaces.

Tournaments

We've moved the tournaments lineup to the day-to-day listing of events. A short summary follows.

Thursday: Poker Tournament, Time's Up Tournament Semi-Final. **Friday:** Boggle Tournament, Trash Bowl, Wizard Tournament, Lego Improv, Double Deck Cancellation Hearts. **Saturday:** Duplicate Bridge Tournament (with lessons),Quiz Bowl, Euchre, Carnelli, Time's Up Tournament Finals. **Nightly:** Werewolf, Thurs., Fri., & Sat. evening.

Scarecrow Contest

A "field" of empty stakes is in Hospitality waiting for you to use whatever supplies you have on hand to make a scarecrow to wow our judges! Please keep in mind that all scarecrows need to be acceptable for audiences of all ages. Judging will happen during the costume contest on Friday night.

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Scarecrow Contest, cont'd.

The scarecrows will be on display all weekend, so if you want any of your scarecrow parts returned, stick around to help with cleanup on Sunday. Otherwise, all items left behind will be donated to local charities.

Book Sale

Find out what your fellow Mensans have read. Browse through donated book and non-book items, and take home some treasures. We charge 50¢ per book or 3/$1, for paperbacks; $1 each for hardcovers or 3/$2.50; and $1.00/bag on Sunday. VHS and audio cassette tapes are $1, CDs are $2, and DVDs are $3. Books on tape or CD are $2. All proceeds benefit Chicago Area Mensa's philanthropic projects.

Due to the timing for the program book preparation, any changes to the schedule will be reflected in the "Program At A Glance," which you'll receive at registration.

As always, we're starting on Thursday—with some great speakers on some very hot topics, plus the return of the pig roast.

But that is just the beginning. There are multiple Friday Excursions and, of course, our famous multi-track programming throughout the weekend. For gamers, there are tournaments and the 24-hour games room, and of course there will be a great kids' track, plus two dances, costume parade, 24-hour hospitality suites, book sale, and vendor area.

Do note that we have a lot of programs in the evening, so don't figure that dinner signals the end of the day's learning or entertainment opportunities.

For details on events and features that run all weekend long, including tournaments and Hospitality food schedules, see previous pages.

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Thursday

5:00 PM TO 7:00 PM

Hotal Bar Happy Hour
Above Tramonto's

$5.00 martini specials.

5:00 PM TO 6:30 PM

WeeM 101
JC Chupack

Ravinia C

If this is your first time at HalloweeM, or your first time in a long time, this session will offer orientation to the event and conference room layout hosted by the HalloweeM Chair, JC Chupack. JC will give you the insiders' scoop on what to expect and what not to miss. We will finish the session with a quick walking tour of the conference rooms and facility, to help you get your bearings. (We have two sessions of this event scheduled; both will include the same content. Session 2 is Friday at 10:30 AM, in Birch.)

7:00–8:30 PM

Dinner Break
Hospitality

Head over to Hospitality for a meal, but please, no need to rush, or try to fill and balance eight plates, as food will be replenished many times.

7:00–9:30 PM

Gun Handling Pre-Excursion Meet-up
Elm

Advance registration required to attend. Parents must accompany anyone under the age of 21.

7:00–10:30 PM

Poker Tournament
Michigan B

There's no charge for our traditional No Limit Holdem Poker tournament. A little experience with Holdem poker is expected for entrants, and a healthy dose of luck is often required to win. All ages are welcome.



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8:30–9:30 PM

Understanding U.S. Economic Debates: Jobs, Federal Budget, and Financial Crisis

David Doney

Birch

The news is filled with partisan stories about key economic issues of the day. In this session, we will take a fact-based approach using the most credible sources available to understand key questions, such as how do we get the U.S. jobs engine moving, what is the U.S.' current fiscal position, and what can be done to improve it, and how did we get into this mess in the first place?

8:30–10:30 PM

Scotch Tasting

Matt Crawford

Willow

For the fifth year of whisk(e)y tasting, we are going to sample blended Scotch whiskies. Blends are mixed in order to create a consistent experience year after year, so if you discover one you like, you're set for life, or as long as your taste buds last.

9:30–10:30 PM

The Budget Game

David Doney

Birch

Ready to debate and solve the issues of the day? You will have materials describing 10 policy alternatives, with their deficit impacts scored by the Congressional Budget Office. Working in teams, determine whether to adopt each policy as you try to get the deficit under control. Modeled on a game designed by the budget watchdog group "The Concord Coalition," used to educate high-school and college folks all over the country. The team with the best deficit reduction will get a "prize" worthy of this undertaking. It's a great chance to debate with your friends and make some new ones.

9:30–Late

Friends of Jacob (aka Nightly Werewolf)

Elm

We've set a room aside for this late-night favorite game of persuasion. Convince your fellow villagers that you're human. If you're convincing enough, you might survive until morning. No experience necessary. All ages are welcome.

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10:30–11:30 PM

Inside James Bond

Robert Finnegan

Birch

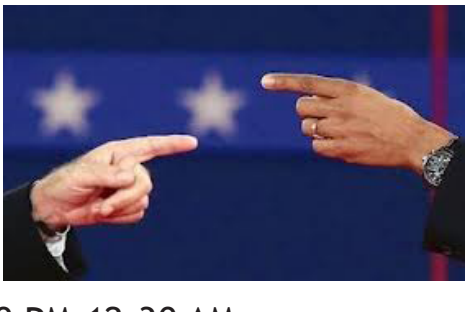


In honor of the 50th anniversary of the first James Bond movie, see a video presentation of the behind-the-scenes stunt work, accidents, and odd goings-on from the longest and most successful series of movies ever made.

Spontaneous Debates

Willow

The weightiest issues of our time: Is white chocolate really chocolate? Could Yoda defeat Superman? Are cats masters of the earth? This is an audience participation event, so be prepared to Fish or Cut Debate!



10:30 PM–12:30 AM

Time's Up Tournament Semi-Final

Michigan B

This fast-paced and oft-hilarious game of "Guess the Famous People" has three rounds. In round one, use as many words as you need. In Round 2, only one word. By Round 3 it's pantomime only. Rules will be taught. Finals will be held on Saturday night at 10:30pm (following Pretentious & Prohibition Drinking). All ages welcome, though parents should be aware that suggestive gestures and language may be involved.

YAMS (GenX & GenY) Meet-up

Ravinia C

This meet-up is intended for Mensans born between 1961 and 1991 to meet up and socialize. Within Chicago Area Mensa, this is the YAMS SIG; for many other regions of American Mensa, this group is comprised of the Gen X and Gen Y SIGs. (Please note that this meet-up is free-form/unmoderated.)

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Due to the timing for the program book preparation, any changes to the schedule will be reflected in the "Program At A Glance," which you'll receive at registration.

Friday

7:30AM–9:30AM

Simple Breakfast
Hospitality

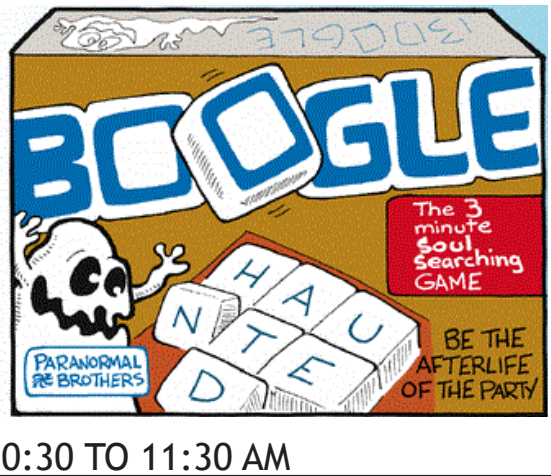
9:15 TO 10:15 AM

Meet the AMC and Candidates
Birch

Come meet and question your AMC representatives, and any candidates for AMC office who turn out.

Boggle Tournament
Michigan B

Find as many unique words in a grid of letters as you can in three minutes or less. This is Mensa, so we play cutthroat rules: no 3 or 4 letter words. All ages welcome.



10:30 TO 11:30 AM

WeeM 101
JC Chupack

Birch

If this is your first time at HalloweeM, or your first time in a long time, this session will offer orientation to the event and conference room layout hosted by the HalloweeM chair, JC Chupack. JC will give you the insiders' scoop on what to expect and what not to miss. We will finish the session with a quick walking tour of the conference rooms and facility, to help you get your bearings.

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10:30 TO 11:30 AM, cont'd.

Who's Who of Owls
Mark Spreyer

Willow



To some people, owls are symbols of wisdom, but to others, their hoots are harbingers of death and doom. Join ornithologist Mark Spreyer as he reveals the truth about many of our North American owls. Owls' amazing hunting adaptations are explained. Slides and special feathered guests illustrate just who's who! (Audience members under age 10 should please bring a responsible adult.)

Singles and Other Seekers
Rob Salkin

Elm

Single? Available? Into smart people? Well, come find out a few ways to meet your M-tastic match in Mensa! Special Interest Groups (SIGs), online & print media, and in-person events will be explored. You might even find your match (or a match for a friend of yours) at this event!

Private Space
Frank Dolinar

Michigan A

In the early 21st century, a new era of space exploration is being invented and crafted by private organizations, not governments. We will discuss the history, exploration, and uses of space leading to the current privately funded and managed ventures. Recent news has been exciting. Future possibilities are mind-boggling.

Trash Bowl

Michigan B

Charlie Steinhice returns to HalloweeM to host two terrific quiz bowl events which are as fun to watch as they are to join. This tournament, in the Trash format, is all about pop culture, so expect questions about TV, movies, sports, music, comics, video games, and other mass media. Teams will be assigned randomly. All ages welcome to attend and compete.

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11:30–1:00PM

Lunch Break

Pig Roast

Hospitality

To be more precise; we're roasting it elsewhere, probably somewhere outside, then eating it in Hospitality.

12:30–1:30PM

Really Odd and Special

Robert Finnegan

Birch

Your host dives into his video vault and brings out a collection of especially interesting short videos such as: a completed segment of the movie "Fantasia" that never made the final film, an ad from a pet-cloning company, an animated short made by Dali and Disney, and an instructional video in which Tom Cruise tells how to seduce and destroy women.

Expat-a-Go-Go: One Chicagoan's Immigration to Amsterdam

Viki Navratilova

Willow

Have you ever thought about moving overseas? Whether you've wanted to get away from your annoying family or you've threatened to move out of the U.S. as a reaction to a political election, moving overseas is an activity that many people contemplate, but not many follow through on. Come find out what all is involved in the process by listening to one Chicago Mensan's recent experience of emigrating to the Netherlands. This is not meant to be an exhaustive tutorial on immigration, but more of a general idea of the process based on one person's experience.

FEMA 101: What Happens After a Disaster

James Taylor

Michigan A

Ever wonder just what, exactly, happens during a disaster? Want to know what the difference is between a State of Emergency and a Presidential Major Disaster Declaration? Why do I want to, and how do I make this "plan" that I keep being told to make? All these questions, and more, will be answered by Chicago Area Mensa's own Fed and FEMA Employee, James Taylor, as he gives you the lowdown in FEMA: 101. You'll learn how a disaster unfolds and what your government is doing about it. You'll understand what an emergency plan is and why you want one. You'll get a look inside emergency management at all levels and understand the roles that are played at the federal, state, and local levels.

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12:30–1:30PM, CONT'D.

Thrill the World Rehearsal
Marie Salvaggione

Elm

On Saturday at 2:00 PM Central Time, thousands of people around the world will perform the dance from Michael Jackson's "Thriller." This event is open to all ages and dance levels. There will be a mandatory dance rehearsal on Friday to help us prepare. Come dressed to dance. Attendees will be expected to be somewhat familiar with the dance prior to rehearsal.

1:45 PM TO 2:45PM

Tantalizing Turkey
Ruth Danielle

Michigan A

Whirlwind travelogue covering Turkey's classical sites, life on a gulet, and eastern Turkey culled from thousands of photos taken in the summer of 2011 by the intrepid adventurer who brought you "Bali, Island of the Gods" and "Lost in China" at WeeMs past.

Online Mensans Meet-up

Elm

Do you frequent the American Mensa Facebook page? Maybe you foray into the forums? This is a chance to meet up with other online Mensans and put faces to screen names. (Please note that this meet-up is free-form/unmoderated.)

Dots and Squares - Theory Lecture
Oriel Maximé

Willow

Yes, that game: the grid of dots, take turns connecting pairs, complete a square for a point, and go again. If you were bored with it by kindergarten, it's only because, like most, you missed a key insight! In the lecture, I'll show you the trick; then we'll work backward, fitting it into a richer, competitive strategy for this deceptively simple game, wrapping up with some advanced considerations. What used to seem random will be clearer. Then we go right into the tournament. Apply what you learned for fame and (teensy) fortune. Everyone will explore the same concepts; it should be an interesting match. You may attend the tournament without the lecture, but you may be trounced by those who did. If you like an abstract tête-à-tête, you'll enjoy this WeeM warm-up. Younger Ms (9 up or so, but a studious 8 should work) are particularly welcome; you'd be strong favorites to win!

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1:45 PM TO 4:00PM

Wizard Tournament

Michigan B

This classic trick-taking card game is a Mensa favorite. Compete as an individual and bid on how many tricks you will take. No experience necessary; rules will be taught. All ages welcome.

1:45 PM TO 4:15PM

Sexyg Fishbowl

Robin Crawford, Michael Collins

Birch

Michael and Robin lead the group in a frank discussion about human sexuality and interaction. This forum uses the "Fishbowl" method of having first one gender, then the other, answer questions about their personal sexual preferences, proclivities, and views. Get answers to questions that, heretofore, you've probably been able to ask very few people. Participants will help generate questions and the moderators will come prepared with some of the known "best of the best" conversation starters. To foster frankness and trust, no one will be admitted 10 minutes after we begin, so please be on time. Confidentiality and discretion are a must. What is shared in the fishbowl, stays in the fishbowl.



1:45 PM TO ??

A Walk Outdoors

Jeff Smith

Hotel Lobby

Take a break from our wonderful indoor programming to get in touch with some trees, and maybe some birds and most likely some squirrels! And it's all free of charge! Just look in the lobby for the guy wearing the funny shoes. We will be starting on the path right behind the hotel and heading ESE to Lake Potawatomi, which is at most 20 minutes away. Please remember to bring umbrellas or any other gear you might need for the weather. And remember that Mensa may not be held liable for any injuries you might sustain during this activity. The only requirement for this activity is that you are able to walk at an average pace.

3:00 PM TO 4:00PM

Dots and Squares - Tournament

Oriel Maximé

Willow

Apply the knowledge gleaned from the lecture.

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3:00 PM TO 4:00PM

Social Media Makes a Difference
Rob Salkin

Elm

Do you YouTube? Found a friend on Facebook? Gone on Google+? Read something on reddit? Regardless of your answers, come discover what's out there in the world of Web 2.0, how social media has changed the world, and why it should matter to Mensa(ns). Social media and Web 2.0 will be defined and discussed; this is not a tutorial session.

The Unrecognized Soldiers Who Really Won World War II
Robert J Mueller

Michigan A

Although the Battle of the Bulge was Western Europe's largest battle of the WWII, and eventually involved over one million combatants, German plans for turning the tide of the war were defeated by small groups of American soldiers who were in the right place at the right time and frequently made the ultimate sacrifice. Join Robert Mueller, battlefield traveler, in a "You Are There" revisit to the places and review of the men who beat Hitler's last desperate gamble.



4:15–5:15PM

nanotech news 2012
Frank Dolinar

Elm

Nanotech continues a 25-year climb from utter obscurity to overnight success, sparking imaginations as it becomes an integral part of the Industrial Revolution of the 21st Century. Each year brings new research results and expanding horizons. This presentation will discuss nanotech news, research, and implications for 2012. The future is coming sooner than you think. Don't blink.

Mensa Communications
Brian Reeves, Robin Crawford

Willow

Have you ever wondered how your Mensa Bulletin is put together? How about who gets to decide how the website is organized? Come and learn about the Bulletin, the Mensa Forums, the Mensa Facebook page, rules for newsletters (hint: there aren't a lot of them) and much more.

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How I Gave Away My Major Science-Fiction Collection and Learned to Love the Library

Arthur Kreymer

Michigan A

I am donating my 10,000-volume science-fiction-paperback collection to the Lilly Library at Indiana University and the Northern Illinois University Library. The books were collected by my father, Donald Kreymer. Collection highlights include a pair of each of the Ace Doubles and complete runs of many magazines through the mid 1970s. The donation process turned out to be anything but simple. I inspected, indexed, and triaged the volumes, determining whether each goes to the Lilly, to NIU, or to recycling. I will show images and discuss The Good (autographs, rare books), The Bad (identifying first printings), and The Ugly (spoiled books).

Throwing Stones: Living in a Reality TV Glass House



Stephanie Link

Birch

Have you ever thought about living in a house for a few months while competing against a bunch of people to win a popularity contest with America for the chance at $250,000? While being filmed by 50+ cameras and being broadcast to millions of people? From the casting process to prize money, I'm here to tell you about the good, the bad, and the downright whack-a-doodle of my crazy summer competing on ABC's "The Glass House".

Lego Improv

Michigan B

This contest involves creatively making interesting objects using a random set of Lego toys. Awards will be offered in multiple categories. All ages are welcome to participate.

5:30–7:30PM



Dinner

Hospitality

Head over to Hospitality for a meal, but please, no need to rush, or try to fill and balance eight plates, as food will be replenished many times.

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6:30–7:30PM PLEASE NOTE EARLIER TIME!

Kids' Costume Parade

Michigan A/B

All children are invited to show off their costumes for prizes. Come see some little ones that are so cute, it's scary! After prizes are awarded, kids registered for babysitting are welcome to wear their costumes to the Kids' room for movies and snacks during the Adult Costume Parade.

More-than-One-Way Day

Vicky Edwards

Elm

Approach problems in a new way, enjoy a rousing film clip, become more creative, or just relax and enjoy a chance for some whimsical play with your fellow Mensans. We will do some creative exercises that prove the theorem "There's More Than One Way to Skin a Cat" (metaphorically), and see parts of the movie "Searching for Bobby Fischer" to see how real-life chess champ Josh Waitzkin combined two ways of thinking to win matches.

Intelligent SM Redux: Part 1—Leather History

Joanne C. Gaddy

Birch

LEATHER HISTORY AND TRADITIONS: The Long and Short of It All

The Long: Leather…Leather Community…Old Guard…what does all that mean? Where did the Leather Community come from? Who are our forefathers? To whom do we owe our freedoms, like meeting publicly (without scaring the villagers!) and having Web sites? I came out in Leather through the gay male perspective, I've listened to many stories over the last 25+ years, and I'm welcome in all the wonderfully diverse subsets of the Leather Community. The Short: First came buffalo, horses, cows, and pigs; then came hide; then came leather...and kinky sex!

8:00–9:00PM

50 Jobs in 50 States



Daniel Seddiqui

Michigan A/B

After graduating college in 2005, Daniel experienced a harsh reality. He failed over 40 job interviews, leaving him frustrated and confused. After volunteering for several years,

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Daniel devised the plan to work 50 jobs in 50 states. He sought work that reflected the culture and economy of each state. From making cheese in Wisconsin to lobstering in Maine, to being a coal miner in West Virginia, Daniel was fortunate to explore the opportunities of America that he didn't know existed. He proved that this is still the land of opportunity, but the discovery comes with taking risks, utilizing networks, being adaptable, endurance, and perseverance.

8:00–Late

Friends of Jacob *(AKA Nightly Werewolf)*
Elm



9:30–11:00PM

Adult Costume Parade
Michigan A/B

It's one of the many things for which we are (justly) famous: costumes. Prizes will be awarded for Best Pun, Worst Pun, Best Traditional, Best Under Age 18, and possibly others, as inspiration strikes the judges. Bribes for the judges are encouraged.

If you are entering the costume contest, be sure to SPEAK LOUDLY AND CLEARLY when you get to the microphone, so that everyone (including the judges) can hear and enjoy the description of your guise.

9:30–Late

Rock Band® Game Night
Michael Johnson
Willow

Join us for Rock Band™ 3 gaming (www.rockband.com). Rock-and-roll karaoke plus controllers for guitar, bass, drums, and keyboards. Try it and you'll be hooked! Over 1400 song choices and counting. Each song has difficulty levels from beginner to expert. Newcomers and spectators welcome and encouraged.

11:00 PM–Late

Hit Movie: "Prometheus" (Rated R)
Birch

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11:00–Late

Iron Chef Hospitality
Michael Collins
Ravinia C/D/F

Test your skills at ad hoc haute cuisine. Competitors in Iron Chef Hospitality will have one hour to create a 3-course meal from whatever they find in Hospitality, including leftovers. Some small additional ingredients may be brought in from outside, but all preparation must take place at the event. Judges include Marie Porter (Fantasy Cake creator), and Michael Collins (Hospitality Co-Chair); contact them if you're interested in competing or acting as a "mystery judge." If you're not up to being a head chef, we can try to place you on a team. Everyone is welcome as a spectator. Allez cuisine!



Double Deck Cancellation Hearts
Ravinia A/B (Games Room)

This giant and unpredictable version of the classic game of Hearts is a Midwest RG favorite. Some familiarity of the game is preferred. If you know Hearts, the rest can be easily taught. Sobriety is optional.

Saturday

Due to the timing for the program book preparation, any changes to the schedule will be reflected in the "Program At A Glance," which you'll receive at registration.

8:00–9:15AM

Bridge Lesson
Michigan B

Enjoy a beginner-to-intermediate Bridge lesson prior to our duplicate tournament. Knowledge of the game of Bridge is expected. Rules and standard bidding will NOT be taught.

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9:15–10:15AM

American Piano Music of the Romantic Period
Angela Salvaggione

Birch

Though jazz is often considered THE American musical idiom, there were many prolific American composers during the 19th Century, composing in a variety of musical styles. Come learn and listen by way of lecture and live recital of just a few of them.

Traditional Japanese Weaponry
Trevis Crane

Michigan A

Shinkendo and Bojutsu are the beautiful arts of Japanese sword and staff. Through extensive training and historical research, Shinkendo founder Toshishiro Obata created a system of martial arts that uses authentic Samurai teachings and techniques which lead to practical ability as well as an understanding of classical martial arts. Shinkendo is steeped in the traditions of the Samurai, physical training, proper Bushido etiquette, and philosophy.

Brony Meet & Greet
Owen Crawford

Elm

Come hang out with fellow fans of the hit TV series "My Little Pony: Friendship is Magic." Discuss your favorite episodes, characters, and scenes, and talk about what got you into the fandom. Don't know what all the fuss is about? Feel free to drop in and see!

Burma, Laos, and Cambodia
Ruth Danielle

Willow

Experience the wonders of Angkor Wat and contemporary Cambodia, Communist Laos, and the optimistic spirit in Myanmar (Burma) through photos taken at the end of last year by intrepid adventurer Ruth Danielle.

9:30–11:30AM

Duplicate Bridge Tournament

Michigan B

American Contract Bridge League (ACBL) director of education, Bryan Delfs, will be on hand to run our duplicate Bridge tournament with all the accoutrements. An intermediate level lesson will precede the game (see 8am listing). Bring your partner or we'll find one for you. Experience with Bridge is expected; rules will NOT be taught. However, if you're unfamiliar with the game and want to learn more, feel free to kibitz the players. Bryan will have information on how you can learn more about Bridge for next year!

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10:30–11:30AM

The Rise of Young Atheists
Hemant Mehta

Michigan A

Atheists are getting younger and more vocal, but there are still challenges that they face. This talk will highlight some of those challenges as well as how we can help those students.

The Highly Sensitive Person: An Overview
Jennifer Murtoff

Willow

Based on Elaine Aron's work, this presentation examines the characteristics of the Highly Sensitive Person (HSP) and allows attendees to take a short quiz to determine if they are HSPs. HSPs have nervous and sensory systems that are more attuned to the environment than those of others. As a result, bright lights, fabrics, smells, textures, tastes, and repetitive noises can easily cause overstimulation for the HSP. HSP is a trait that often occurs in gifted and high-IQ adults. We'll discuss strategies for dealing with the trait in everyday life; some of these include calming activities, gentle self-assertion, and breathing exercises.

Club Med SIG Meet & Greet

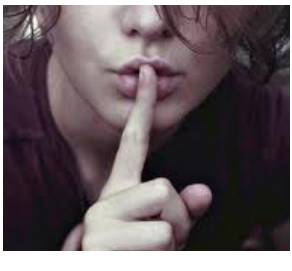
Elm

Come meet SIG members and interested others. SIG Coordinator Erica Byrne will have information about the upcoming February "Caribbean Splash" at Punta Cana.

Think Before You Speak: Communication Lessons from "America's Greatest Thinker"
Blaine Rada

Birch

Communication skills (thinking, writing, listening, speaking) are more important in our high-tech, multi-tasking world than ever before, yet most people get very little formal training in this area (odd, isn't it?!). Being named "America's Greatest Thinker" required Blaine to develop and use communication skills he had rarely used before, and in this program, he shares what he learned from this uniquely American experience. Come learn how to better express and impress, how to connect with people at more than just the intellectual level, and how you, too, can become "America's Greatest Thinker."



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11:30 AM–1:00 PM

Lunch Break.

12:30–3:45 PM

Quiz Bowl

Michigan B



Charlie Steinhice returns to HalloweeM to host two terrific quiz bowl events which are as fun to watch as they are to join. This tournament, in the standard Quiz Bowl format, will cover more academic topics than the Trash Bowl held earlier in the weekend. Teams will be assigned randomly. All ages welcome to attend and compete.

A Guided Tour of Hell: The Unexplored Territory

John Wager

Michigan A

Come on a new guided tour of Hell. Or at least of Dante's Inferno. Last 'WeeM, Dr. Wager led a quick tour of the most popular tourist destinations of Hell: Lust, Anger, et cetera. Now come along for an all-new look at some of the unexplored parts of Dante's story. See Fortune Tellers! Gawk at those with frozen tears! See who the neighbors are on the burning sand! See what happens to those who don't love the world enough! Laugh with Dante at the antics of Barbariccia! All with musical and artistic illustrations drawn from those who Dante influenced.

12:30–1:30 PM

Googling through Life Magazine's Photographic Archives

William S. Higgins

Willow

Searching for Weirdness in the Vaults of Life Magazine: Puppets, Jetpacks, and Ballet on the Moon.

Vultures, Gingerbread, and Recovery: Our Twisted Tornado Experience

Marie & Michael Porter

Birch

What do you do when your life is turned into a surreal nightmare by a tornado? If you're Marie and Michael Porter... you get creative. (Hint: Cooking

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jambalaya for 300 people in the parking lot of a funeral home, water balloons, and a bizarre gingerbread house are involved!)

The Porters will discuss their "adventure", covering such topics as DIY rebuilding their seriously under-insured house; frustration at incompetence and greed from city officials; and dealing with issues like control, logistics, change, and over-stimulation as two adults with Asperger's. They will also discuss the book that they wrote about their experience.

M-Atheists SIG Meet & Greet

Elm

Get together with SIG members and other interested people.

1:30–2:15 PM

Thrill the World Dance

Marie Salvaggione

Ravinia D/E



See the rehearsal entry in the program book on Friday at 12:30 PM. At 1:30 PM Saturday, gather outside Hospitality to don your optional zombie make-up or costume, take your place, and prepare to dance at 2:00!

1:45–2:45 PM

Even Smart People Do Dumb Things: Learn One Woman's No-Fail Recipe for Resilience

Kelly Standing

Michigan A

Author Kelly Standing has been hit by a car, struck by lightning, and hanged from a tree. At age 29, she went into the "Bright Light" but lived to tell … still STANDING, still smiling. Like most of us, Kelly has faced everyday human hiccups, too: gossip, bullies, career woes, parenting panics, tight finances, and more. She suggests that some of her mishaps (and perhaps ours) qualify as "self-inflicted." Even smart people do dumb things. She doesn't claim to have all the answers, but this award-winning speaker offers inspiring lessons from her own life: sometimes startling, frequently funny, totally true.

NOTE: There will be time for autographing her book "I'm Still Standing" after her talk; you can bring a copy with or buy a copy there.

Even Smart People Do Dumb Things: Learn One Woman's No-Fail Recipe for Resilience

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1:45–2:45 PM cont'd.

Learn the Basics of Improv
Steve Duberchin

Birch

Do you have what it takes to be an improviser? Do you wonder how they make it work? Even if you haven't thought about it until this very moment, join Crazy Shades of Blue in this experiential workshop and see what makes improv tick! Instead of merely sitting and watching, you'll improvise side by side with seasoned improvisers. One secret of improv: "Don't think, just act!" While you are in action, we'll look at other secrets that make improv work, via group games and scenes. Have fun, think on your feet, and learn something new through all the laughs!

LIMITED ATTENDANCE: Due to the intimate nature of this session, attendance will be limited to the first 20 people to sign up or show up in the room.



Polyamory SIG Meet & Greet
Leon Feingold

Elm

The Holometer
Chris Stoughton

Willow

Scientists suspect that space and time might be quantized. I will describe how the Holometer experiment will make the first measurement of this graininess. This will serve as an illustration of scientific methods used to see invisible things.

3:00–4:00pm

The God Particle? No way! It's way cooler than that!
Don Lincoln

Michigan A

Searching for the origins of the universe is a classical conundrum of what one might call biblical proportions. In this talk, Fermilab physicist Don Lincoln will describe the most cutting edge knowledge we have on the subject. He and his colleagues recreate the conditions of the universe just a trillionth of a second after the Big Bang. How cool is that?

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Kids' T-Shirt Craft

Willow

Every child registered for the Kids' Track will have the opportunity once again to make his or her own WeeM T-Shirt. Make sure your kids are checked in with the babysitters (in Maple) during this time. Our babysitters will bring the children to the program room in smaller groups so that everyone gets one-on-one time with an adult to complete a shirt. Only children registered for the Kids' Track may participate in this program.

SIG Meet and Greet

Hell's M's

Birch

Have you ever wondered what all of those black tee shirts are all about? Attend the meeting for current and potential HELL's M's and find out. You will learn out what is going on with the party SIG. If you don't already know, you will find out what we are, how we got started, and what we do. HELL's M's: Don't forget to vote for PARTY ANIMAL; the results will be announced on Sunday.

3:00–5:15PM

Richard III

Beverly Flechsig

Elm

Take a part and join in a reading of Shakespeare's "Richard III." Thespian experience is not required.



4:00–5:30PM

Euchre

Michigan B

This is a traditional trick-taking card game requiring cooperation between partners. However, in our variant, you will have a new partner each round. We'll play three rounds. Experience with Euchre is expected; rules will NOT be taught. All ages welcome.

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4:15–5:15PM

Nature of Historical Re-enactment
Kerri-Ellen G. Kelly

Willow

A discussion of the historical re-enactment participation, including such things as attractions; detractions; recruiting; historical research; modern compromises; authenticity review; relationships with a parent organization; affordability; safety & health; effect on non-historical life and culture such as relationships, friendships, social life; etc.

Ask the Sexologist
Robert Berend

Birch

Ask the Sexologist. Open-forum Q&A, where the audience asks questions on any aspects of human sexuality (dating, attraction, pheromones, orgasm, kink, etc.). Questions can be submitted anonymously on paper or asked directly in the session. All topics are fine, suitable, and welcomed. Whatever you're doing that's safe, sane, and consensual is OK!

4:15–5:45PM

Reality TV is Broken - An Improvised Comedy
Steve Duberchin & Crazy Shades of Blue

Michigan A

Crazy Shades of Blue is back with a new show!



Join us for REALITY TV IS BROKEN, a comedy about everything we love to hate on TV. We'll use your suggestions to improvise scenes from TV shows that may include Survivor, Cops, The Real World, So You Think You Can Dance, American Idol, Jeopardy! (as real as it gets!) and many others. This will be unique: these scenes have never been performed before and most likely will never be performed again.

5:30–7:00PM

Dinner Break

Like last year, there will be no formal banquet this year, and it should also be noted that no meal will be provided in Hospitality, though the usual snacks will be available. A list of area restaurants will be provided to those who inquire at our registration desk or in the hotel lobby.

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6:00–7:15PM

Tick bites cause Alzheimer's?
Peter Kraus

Birch

Getting bitten by a tick is no laughing matter. Lyme disease is becoming an epidemic. The CDC reports about 30,000 new cases of Lyme each year, but states that the true number could be 12 times as high, thus making Lyme more prevalent than HIV (at 50,000 cases per year). What's more, there is good scientific evidence that Lyme causes about 25% of Alzheimer's cases. We will view segments from the film "Under Our Skin" and discuss the book "Cure Unknown." Now, you don't need to wait for Halloween to be horrified – just go outdoors and encounter a tick, nature's vampire.



7:30–9:30PM

Carnelli
Michigan B

By popular request, we've brought back this uniquely Mensan parlor game of word and title association. Meet up with your Carnelli-loving friends and enjoy this classic event. No experience necessary. All ages are welcome, but parents should be aware that the content may be suggestive during this free-flowing game.

7:30–8:30PM

New to the Scene: Perverting the Pristine Mind and Body
Joanne C. Gaddy

Birch

The world of leather/BDSM is, without a doubt, magical, mystical, and potentially life-changing. It can also be intimidating to the newcomer. The lifestyle has its own language, behavior, taboos, and etiquette. How do you figure out where you belong, what to call yourself, how to fit in, and—most important—how to safely find partners? Learn some tips and become acquainted with resources that might help you as you explore the wonderful world of BDSM. Bring your curiosity and an open mind!

FIAWOL: Inside Science Fiction Fandom
William S. Higgins

Willow

As soon as science-fiction magazines appeared in the 1920s, readers who loved them began to correspond, to gather, and to collaborate. Over nine decades, SF "fandom" has blossomed into a garden of intertwined enthusiasms including conventions, publications, music, costumes, and awards. Today, Fandom Is A Way Of Life for a huge number of people. As SF fandom has spread across the earth

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and onto the Internet, it has been a model for the creation of related fandoms, as well. Tour the world(s) of science-fiction fans with Bill Higgins as your native guide.



The Very Modern Mr. Wright: Frank Lloyd Wright and Modernism

Joel Schorn

Michigan A

Using examples from both Frank Lloyd Wright's eventful life and epic career, the presentation will illustrate how one of the most prominent figures in the history of architecture lived a very modern life, in many ways ahead of his time, not only in his profession but also in terms of changes that modernity brought to lifestyles, society, religion, and culture.

7:30–Late

Friends of Jacob *(AKA Nightly Werewolf)*

Elm

8:30–9:30PM

Non-drinkers Meet-up

Willow

Friends of Bill W welcome.

8:30–10:30PM

Pretentious Drinking and Music

Alan Baltis and his Merry Band of Pourmeisters

Ravinia D-F

Liqueurs. The fancy stuff. Polished, cosmopolitan, perhaps even a bit snooty. The stuff you graduate to from beer and wine. You'd like to know more but, gosh, look at that price. What if that pricey potion isn't quite the palate pleaser you expected? Rejoice! As in years past, you can sample some truly amazing liqueurs—and your money's no good. Details are included in your registration package. We will supply a wide range of weird and wonderful concoctions from around the world. You can determine which you'd like to own, which should be left on the shelf, and which you should give to your arch-nemesis as a "thoughtful" gift. Obviously, you must be of legal drinking age to join us. Snobbish accents and extended pinkies optional.

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NEW EVENT - Prohibition Drinking
Joel and Kimberly Kohler

Elm

Who says you have to get drunk to be pretentious? While the old folks are getting their booze on in Hospitality, we'll host a snooty gathering especially for the under 21 set in Elm. Look for your ticket to this exclusive event in your registration packet. You'll be able to sample weird and wonderful food and drink from all over the world. Come challenge your taste buds with fancy foods and bizarre beverages, all completely legal in the prohibition years! Please note: we will have ingredients available for all our offerings. Participants are responsible for monitoring their own food allergies.

This event is primarily designed for our teens and 'tweens. Parents and others of legal drinking age may join us by forfeiting your Pretentious Drinking ticket at the door. If you are over 21, expect to be asked to volunteer behind the scenes so that the young adults and kids can enjoy their chance to be a little pretentious.

9:30 PM–Midnight

Movie: "The Avengers" (Rated PG)
Birch

10:30–Late

Dance Through the Decades
Michigan A/B

Celebrate pop music history with a timely dance! The first half hour of our dance will feature 60's and 70's hits. The next half-hour will be 80's dance favorites, and so on. Come as you are. Dance like nobody's watching.

Sing-Along
Clyde Forrester

Willow

Gather 'round for a sing-along! Folk, rock, blues, punk, show tunes—whatever you really love to sing. Feel free to bring a non-amplified instrument or just your voice. Clyde Forrester will bring an acoustic bass guitar and an electronic keyboard. Sing until you run out of songs. Or, just sit and enjoy the music.

Time's Up Tournament Finals
Ravinia C

The finals of this fast-paced and oft-hilarious game should be particularly amusing following Pretentious Drinking. Only those advancing from the Semi held on Thursday (see earlier listing) can participate in the official event, but side games may be formed. All ages welcome, though parents should be aware that suggestive gestures and language may be involved.

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Sunday

Due to the timing for the program book preparation, any changes to the schedule will be reflected in the "Program At A Glance," which you'll receive at registration.

7:30–10:30AM

Breakfast
Hospitality

9:15–9:45AM

Nondenominational Worship
Birch

Friends of the FSM
Elm

Come, in full pirate regalia if ye be so inclined, and be touched by his noodly appendage.

10:00–11:00AM

Awards and Announcements
Ravinia C/D/F

Find out who did and won what. The service awards, in particular, introduce you to people who have worked, often behind the scenes, to make things happen in Chicago Area Mensa.

Postcard Pals SIG Meet-and-Greet
Ruth Danielle

Elm

Meet other members of Postcard Pals (and the former international 1-K) SIG face to face and sign the cards going out to non-attending members. This SIG has about 60 members around the world who (surprise!) send each other postcards. They also communicate via e-mail, have a Facebook group, host each other when traveling, and occasionally organize a get-together.

10:30 AM TO 3:30 PM

Leadership Development Workshop
Beth Anne Demeter

Michigan A

Many organizations say, "Our people are our most important asset." But within a volunteer-powered organization like American Mensa, this is an absolutely undeniable fact. When we

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develop our volunteer leaders, it is important to motivate and educate them so they will stick with us and, perhaps, be inspired to take on more responsibility. Toward this goal, Chicago Mensa will be hosting a Leadership Development Workshop. If you've ever wanted to take on more of a leadership role in Mensa or get a more behind-the-scenes view of what goes into making events happen, this is a terrific event to attend. The skills taught can be applied to roles within Mensa as well as to your career or other interests. Topics include hospitality planning for gatherings, volunteer motivation, succession planning, and strategic planning for local groups.

11:00–11:30AM

Time to check out of your hotel rooms

11:30AM–12:30PM

Movie Quote Quiz #2

Robert Finnegan

Birch

Listen to famous lines and try to guess which movies they're from and who is speaking. (It's the same format as last year, but with different quotes.)

Auteur Theory

Sonja Foxe

Willow

Elizabethan England has left us two profound mysteries: Who wrote Shakespeare, and why was Christopher Marlowe murdered? Sonja Foxe has propounded an elegant theory, in the form of a PowerPoint presentation, solving both. (The premise is that Kit Marlowe was leaking state secrets on stage.)

Rethinking the Arbitrariness of Language

Alexander Bolyanatz

Elm

Language is typically thought of as an arbitrary system of sound and meaning—i.e., "a rose by any other name . . . " And while arbitrary associations of sound and meaning are certainly at the core of language (neither "table" nor "mesa" is necessarily a more suitable set of sounds to describe a platform with four legs), it is easy to overlook the ways in which sound and meaning are not arbitrarily associated. This session will look at some of the ways in which sound and meaning are related to each other.

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12:30–1:30PM

Chicago Tourists Meet-up

Willow

Meet up with anyone headed to Chicago for touring or public transit after HalloweeM for ride-sharing or shared activities in the city. (Please note that this meet-up is free-form/unmoderated.)

12:45–1:45PM

CAM Business Meeting

Lisa Slankard, Chicago LocSec

Elm

On Sunday the 28th, a meeting of Chicago Area Mensa's board will be held in the Elm Room. All are welcome to attend. Discussion typically includes various governing issues affecting the group, membership, and uses of funds (e.g., events).

2:00PM–4:00PM

Proctored Tests

Willow, overflow in Oak

Not a member yet? Here's your chance to qualify.

3:15 PM – ?

Anyone with time to spare?

Just about everywhere

Time to clean up! Please pitch in and give us a hand. Remember, all volunteering is rewarded with a collectable volunteer pin.



Thanks for coming!

Hope to see you next year.

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Presenter Biographies

Robert Berend

Ask the Sexologist (Sat.)

Robert Berend has a Ph.D. in human sexuality and has lectured nationally as well as to about 80 Mensa gatherings.

Alexander Bolyanatz

Rethinking the Arbitrariness of Language (Sun.)

Alex Bolyanatz is Professor of Anthropology at College of DuPage. He has conducted field research primarily in Papua New Guinea, with secondary work in Mexico and Tanzania. Since the early 2000s and the publication of his book Pacific Romanticism, his work has focused on the ways in which humans around the world share fundamental psychological similarities.

Trevis Crane

Traditional Japanese Weaponry (Sat.)

Sensei Trevis Crane has taught Shinkendo and Bojutsu with the Sojokan Dojo through the Arlington Heights Park District since 2009. Sojokan Dojo is a member dojo of the International Shinkendo Federation, based in Los Angeles and led by Kaiso (founder) Toshishiro Obata, who holds elevated rank in various martial arts and has set multiple records in target cutting and test cutting. You may have seen him as Master Tatsu in 1990's "Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtle", among other Hollywood roles.

Matt Crawford

Whiskey Tasting (Thurs.)

Matt Crawford used his clout as LocSec in 2008 to create the Scotch Tasting event for HalloweeM, and has been pouring, educating, and amusing opening-night WeeM-goers ever since. He comes by it honestly, for the most part.

Owen Crawford

Brony Meet & Greet (Sat.)

Owen discovered the fandom in the summer of 2011, and joined it almost at once. His mother doesn't "get it" but says she loves him anyway.

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Robin Crawford

Sexyg Fishbowl (Fri.)

Robin Crawford often extols the virtue of volunteerism and practices what she preaches. She has served in several capacities at the local, regional, national, and international levels of Mensa. Even after doing this for several years, she still considers co-facilitator of the Fishbowl at 'WeeM to be one of the most enjoyable positions.

Crazy Shades of Blue

Reality TV is Broken - An Improvised Comedy (Sat.)

CSoB is an improv-comedy troupe from Chicago's suburbs, performing in a similar fashion to "Whose Line Is It Anyway?" CSoB is comprised of Steve Duberchin, Lee Furnish, Sue Pontarelli, Jamie Schultz, Jon Corso, Jeff Quaglia, Mike Olifirowicz, and Amy Levine. CSoB has over 25 years of combined experience performing across the Chicago suburbs. We are happy to be returning to HalloweeM this year, and we'll be bringing laughs and fun with us!

Ruth Danielle

Burma, Laos, and Cambodia (Sat.) and Postcard Pals SIG meet-and-greet (Sun.)

Ruth spent her career working her way through college, culminating in a Northwestern University M.Mus in voice. Odd jobs included singing in Chicago Symphony Chorus and Music of the Baroque; soloist in churches, synagogues, and groups; apprentice pool-cue maker; factory worker; writer; editor; insurance broker; music-school director; toy demonstrator; dispatcher; caregiver; tour guide; neighborhood organizer; teacher; and temp assistant in hundreds of offices. She's been the editor of Isolated M, Manasota Mensa LocSec, and a WeeM costume-contest winner. She retired to travel, create jewelry, and revive the "Free Hugs" movement. View her latest video, "Ruth Unravels," on YouTube.

Frank Dolinar

nanotech news 2012 & Private Space (Fri.)

Consultant and software developer by trade. Science-fiction addict since childhood by lucky accident. Author of essays examining the history, trends, and implications of science &

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technology. Mensan for ten years. Voice narration for A/V productions. Speaker of complete sentences (given the opportunity). Enthusiastic amateur space nut.

David Doney

The Budget Game *and* Understanding U.S. Economic Debates (Thurs.)

David Doney is a Chief Auditor for a $2 billion corporation. David is a CPA with a MBA-Finance from DePaul University. He is a frequent presenter at industry conferences in his field of corporate auditing. David is a frequent Wikipedia contributor on economic and financial articles, such as "United States Federal Budget" and "Subprime Mortgage Crisis."

Vicky Edwards

A More-than-One-Way Day (Fri.)

Vicky Edwards is a writer and a 22-year veteran of teaching English classes, with a special passion for teaching film, creative writing, American Literature, and rhetoric.

Robert Finnegan

Inside James Bond (Thur.)
Really Odd and Special (Fri.)
Movie Quote Quiz #2 (Sun.)

Bob Finnegan is an avid film buff with an impressive collection of documentaries and information on a wide range of topics. Favorites include illusions, animals, disasters, and especially movies and moviemaking, behind-the-scenes footage, and movie-star insights.

Clyde Forrester

Sing-Along (Fri.)

Clyde Forrester has been a Mensan for over 25 years. He comes from a long line of tinkerers and ne'er-do-well musicians, which led him to gravitate toward computers and music. The propensity toward tinkering has led him to delve into the mechanics of the world's languages and writing systems.

Sonja Foxe

Auteur Theory (Sun.)

Astrologer Sonja Foxe recently discovered that she is an Oxfordian and has been obsessed with the Tudors and Elizabethans ever since. Ass over teakettle in horoscopes, she has

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worked out the relationship of Edward deVere, the 17th Earl of Oxford, with that of the Acting Bard of Stratford, William Shakespeare.

Joanne C. Gaddy

Intelligent SM Redux: Part 1—Leather History (Fri.) and New to the Scene: Perverting the Pristine Mind and Body (Sat.)

Among Joanne's first Mensa events were HalloweeM and the 1988 Montreal AG. At the Orlando AG, Joanne opened the kinky Mensa closet door with her program "Intelligent SM," repeated at AGs and RGs. Sadly, budget constraints eventually caused her Mensa membership to lapse. As Mistress Joanne, she's active in the pansexual leather/BDSM/fetish community: for ten years, was closely involved with running International Mr. Leather, volunteered with the Leather Archives and Museum, and continues to present workshops/seminars and judge leather contests. She is delighted to be at HalloweeM again, melding two interests near and dear to her heart: Mensa and kink!

William S. Higgins

Googling through Life Magazine's Photographic Archives and
FIAWOL: Inside Science Fiction Fandom (Sat.)

William S. Higgins is a radiation-safety physicist involved in the transport of high-energy particle beams at Fermilab. He has written about the life of Manhattan Project physicist Robert A. Cornog; about how antimatter, an exotic topic in 1930s physics, became a plaything of science fiction in the 1940s; and about other topics in the history of science and technology. He was formerly the science columnist for the Lerner chain of newspapers and now writes for Tor.com. He also speaks frequently about spaceflight and planetary science. He is a volunteer in NASA's Solar System Ambassador Program.

Kerri-Ellen G. Kelly

Nature of Historical Re-enactment (Sat.)

Joint Presenters: F.L. Watkins, Sharon Spanogle, Julie Watkins. All four presenters are members and/or officers of the Micel Folcland (Wisconsin-Indiana-Illinois) branch of Regia Anglorum, a living-history group which re-enacts the cultures of Britain & Scandinavia in England before the Norman Conquest, from approximately 950 to 1066 CE.

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Peter Kraus

Tick bites cause Alzheimer's? (Sat.)

Peter Kraus has served as Program Chair (or recently as co-chair) for the monthly meetings for Chicago Area Mensa for the past 33 years. He has also had a distinguished past as an amateur tuba player, and worked as an actuarial analyst for much too long. He is now interested in Lyme activism.

Arthur Kreymer

How I Gave Away My Major Science-Fiction Collection and Learned to Love the Library (Fri.)

I grew up reading from my father's science-fiction-paperback collection. This may have contributed to my interest in technology, particularly electronics. I majored in Physics at Caltech, intending to work in solid-state physics. I was soon surprised to find myself doing Elementary Particle Physics research, earning a Ph.D. from Indiana University. I am lucky to be doing what I consider real-life science fiction at Fermilab, working on neutrino experiments. We are measuring their masses and determining whether they really go faster than light. I have recently been busy donating my father's 10,000-volume sci-fi-paperback collection to the Lilly and NIU libraries.

Don Lincoln

The God Particle? No way! It's way cooler than that! (Sat)

Don Lincoln is a senior Fermilab physicist who does research at the Large Hadron Collider in Switzerland and has co-authored over 500 papers. In addition to his research credentials, he is also an accomplished science communicator, with two science books written for Mensans and other curious people. He has spoken to Mensan groups about a dozen times and promises there will be enough bad jokes to get your groan workout for the day.

Oriel Maximé

Dots and Squares - Theory and Tournament (Fri.)

Yes, I'm that guy. You've seen me in the games room, you've heard of this "Game Theory" thing I go on about sometimes, and you've been warned off Logic Problems bearing my name. I'm taking it mellow this year, but this lark of a program and tournament has been on my "to-inflict" checklist for a while, so it's on this year.

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Hemant Mehta

The Rise of Young Atheists (Sat.)

Hemant Mehta is a blogger at FriendlyAtheist.com and the former chair of the Secular Student Alliance. His book, "I Sold My Soul on eBay," was published in 2007. He is also a high-school math teacher in Naperville, Illinois.

Robert J Mueller

The Unrecognized Soldiers Who Really Won World War II (Fri.)

After five years of on-site research, Robert Mueller completed "Fields of War: Fifty Key Battlefields in France and Belgium," which has received 4 national book awards, including a Bronze Medal from the Military Writers Society of America. His descriptive format and engaging writing style bring the history and significance of battlefield locations to life. He is a member of the Midwest Writers Association and the Military Writers Society of America.

Jennifer Murtoff

The Highly Sensitive Person: An Overview (Sat.)

When she was a child, Jennifer Murtoff was sensitive to light (strobe lights, sun-and-shadows patterns), sounds, and smells, as well as to emotional cues. As she grew up, she found these sensitivities difficult to deal with, and she often berated herself for being "weird" and "touchy" and didn't understand why she was this way. Through counseling in her 30s, she was introduced to the idea of the highly sensitive person, which was an epiphany. The revelation helped her understand, appreciate, and protect herself better and was an important step in learning to accept herself.

Viki Navratilova

Expat-a-Go-Go: One Chicagoan's Immigration to Amsterdam (Fri.)

Viki lived in the Chicago area for over 30 years before moving to Amsterdam in February, 2012, to get married to a Dutchman. While in Chicago, she worked in the computer security field and she started the Chicago Mensa Games in the City nights. Before moving to Amsterdam, Viki visited Europe about once a year for vacation and to visit her Czech family and she spent a year in college studying at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

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Marie & Michael Porter

Vultures, Gingerbread, and Recovery (Sat.)

Marie and Michael Porter were two of the thousands of people devastated by the tornado that hit North Minneapolis on May 22, 2011. Under-insured by about $70,000 ... it was an "adventure"!

With the help of social media—and the incredibly generous support of the geek community—the Porters were able to emerge from the recovery marathon without too much of a hit to their sanity levels. New friends were made, new skills learned, and a "new" house emerged from the destruction. The Porters have chronicled their first 11 post-tornado months in a book, "Twisted: A Minneapolis Tornado Memoir."

Blaine Rada

Think Before You Speak (Sat.)

Blaine has been a professional speaker and trainer since 1999 and was named "America's Greatest Thinker" in 2005 by winning The Great American Think-Off, a national philosophy competition. Accepted as a member of Mensa in 2011, Blaine's passion is using the spoken word to bring clarity, brevity, and simplicity to complex ideas. It has been said that Blaine "consistently delivers a thought-provoking message—he finds that small nugget of wisdom that audiences want to hear. He is captivating and brings each audience member into the arena of having a personal discussion from the platform."

Brian Reeves

Mensa Communications (Fri.)

Brian Reeves is the current American Mensa Communications Chair. As such, he oversees all of Mensa's communication efforts.

Rob Salkin

Singles and Other Seekers *and* Social Media Makes a Difference (Both Fri.)

Rob Salkin is a GenX/Y guy from Mensa of Northeastern New York (MoNNY) who teaches college students how to do fun things with their computers during the week and attends as many Mensa events as possible in his spare time. He's an M-Available SIG coordinator (mavailable.org), a moderator on The Smart

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Life's Single Ms group (thesmartlife.com), the GenY coordinator for Region 1, LocSec of MoNNY (nymensa.org), and was recently AML's Membership Officer. For more information, contact Rob at NYMensa@gmail.com.

Angela Salvaggione

American Piano Music of the Romantic Period (Sat.)

Angela Salvaggione is based in Joliet and is a private music teacher, composer/arranger, and pianist actively performing throughout Chicago and the southwest suburbs. She has been a member of Mensa for several years and currently serves as the Joliet Area Cordinator.

Daniel Seddiqui

50 Jobs in 50 States (Fri.)

Daniel Seddiqui graduated from the University of Southern California with a degree in economics. Initially, Daniel attended the University of Oregon where he was a nationally ranked track and cross county athlete, which he continued at USC. He is now founder and director of Living the Map, an experiential learning program designed for students. Daniel's book, 50 Jobs in 50 States, is an international bestseller. He has had continued success on the lecture stage and has inspired and encouraged many on how to succeed in their personal journey through unconventional avenues.

Joel Schorn

The Very Modern Mr. Wright: Frank Lloyd Wright and Modernism (Sat.)

Joel Schorn is an editor and writer living in Chicago and a tour interpreter for the Frank Lloyd Wright Preservation Trust, leading tours at the Frederick C. Robie House and the Rookery building in Chicago.

Jeff Smith

A Walk Outdoors (Fri.)

I live in Cleveland and like to hike. A lot.

Mark Spreyer

Who's Who of Owls (Fri.)

Mark did his graduate work in Minnesota on Great Gray Owls and then went on to organize and direct Chicago's Peregrine Falcon release program. In 1989, he returned to Minnesota, where he worked with the Minnesota Valley

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National Wildlife Refuge and other conservation organizations. In early 1995, after completing work on a 5,000-square-foot raptor exhibit with the Science Museum of Minnesota, Mark migrated back to Illinois to become Executive Director of the Stillman Nature Center in Barrington. His articles on birds of prey have appeared in various publications, including Birder's World. During his career, Mark has also worked with the Brooklyn Botanic Garden, National Audubon Society, and College of Lake County.

Kelly Standing

Even Smart People Do Dumb Things (Sat.)

Kelly Standing offers fun, practical, even life-altering lessons in resilience, adapting to change, self-mastery, and legacy through STANDING Media, LLC. Her programs and one-on-one coaching have encouraged thousands of students, salespeople, CEOs, and celebrities on two continents to stand and deliver their best. Kelly's speaking career took her to the World Championship of Public Speaking in 2001. She ranked in the top nine speakers in the world out of 25,000 competitors and 180,000 Toastmasters. In 2012, Kelly went from speaker to author with her memoir, "I'm Still Standing: How One Woman's Brushes with Death Taught Her How to Live."

Chris Stoughton

The Holometer (Sat)

My research has taken me from the small (neutrinos and charm quarks) to the large (making a map of the Universe) and now, with the Holometer, to the very small: the Planck scale of 1E-35 meters. In this project, we use techniques ranging from quantum mechanics to mechanical engineering.

James Taylor

FEMA 101: What Happens After a Disaster (Fri.)

James Taylor has worked for FEMA Region V in Chicago for 4 years. He started out as a Training & Exercise Officer in the National Preparedness Directorate and now works as an Individual Assistance Program Specialist for the Recovery Division. He has held numerous other roles within FEMA, including State Liaison, Disaster Recovery Center Manager, Regional National Incident

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Management System Coordinator, and Incident Management Assistance Team Branch Director. James began his career in emergency management at the local level, finally retiring from the Manhattan, Kansas Fire Department in 2008. He holds an Associate Degree in Hazardous Materials Management and holds numerous certifications, including Hazardous Materials Technician and Haz-Mat Railcar Specialist.

John Wager

A Guided Tour of Hell (Sat.)

Dr. Wager recently retired after teaching philosophy and humanities at Triton College for 35 years. He has taught courses in Dante and given presentations on Dante at international conferences. He is a member of the Dante Society of America and past president of the American Association of Philosophy Teachers.



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HalloweeM 36

is brought to you, with pleasure, by

Chicago Area Mensa's 'WeeM Team

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CafePress Store..... Margaret Lynn
Logo Design ..... Robin Crawford
Trucking ..... Clyde Forrester
Room/Ride Matchmaker ..... Allison Stallings
Pretentious Drinking.....Alan & Colleen Baltis
Pretentious Music .....Angela Salvaggione
Vendor Mgrs..... Kristine Von Ogden, Ryan Villiard

These are the people who work year-round to bring you HalloweeM. Please express any concerns, problems, or offers of thanks to them. Simply complaining earns you the right to volunteer.

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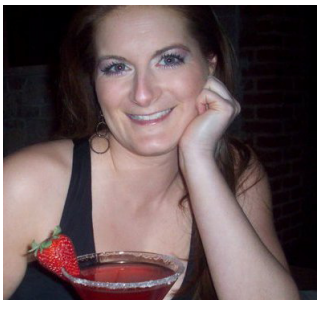
Very Special Thanks to:

Beth Anne Demeter, former WeeM chair, for her expert guidance, her boundless energy, and her ever-present smile.



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We would also like to thank fellow Mensan Jimmy Sun, of Sunrise Digital, 5915 N. Northwest Hwy., Chi., 60631 (www.sunrisedigital.us., 773-792-8880), for the best printing service we've ever had.

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And especially,

ALL of the volunteers.

We couldn't do it without you.

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